

## CLAIMS

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1. A system, comprising:
  - a computer including a central processing unit (CPU) but not including a local hard disk drive;
  - an adapter coupled to the CPU for receiving local disk I/O requests therefrom; and
  - at least one network resource communicating with the adapter for satisfying the local disk I/O requests.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is plugged into a motherboard holding the CPU.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is connected by a connecting cable to a motherboard holding the CPU.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter translates disk I/O requests into network I/O requests.
5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.
6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes identifying  
2 the adapter to the CPU as a secondary boot device.

1 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter causes a conventional operating system  
2 configured for generating local disk I/O requests to be loaded from a network storage to a volatile  
3 memory in the computer.

1 9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the adapter is housed within the computer.

10 10. A method for facilitating, in a diskless computer, the use of an operating system not  
2 modified to not issue local disk I/O requests, comprising:

3 receiving local disk I/O requests from the operating system; and

4 satisfying the local disk I/O requests by accessing a network communicating with the  
5 diskless computer.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the satisfying act includes translating the local disk  
2 I/O requests to network requests at an adapter, transparently to a CPU in the diskless computer.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, comprising plugging the adapter into a motherboard holding  
2 a CPU of the diskless computer.

1 13. The method of Claim 11, comprising connecting the adapter to a motherboard holding  
2 a CPU of the diskless computer using a connecting cable.

1 14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.

1 15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 16. The method of Claim 11, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes identifying  
2 the adapter to a CPU of the diskless computer as a secondary boot device.

1 17. The method of Claim 10, comprising causing a conventional operating system  
2 configured for generating local disk I/O requests to be loaded from a network storage to a volatile  
3 memory in the computer.

1 18. The method of Claim 11, comprising disposing the adapter in the computer.

1 19. A diskless computer, comprising:  
2 a CPU running an operating system not modified to not issue local disk I/O requests;  
3 a disk-free adapter communicating with the operating system and receiving disk I/O  
4 requests therefrom; and  
5 a network connection through which the disk I/O requests can be satisfied despite the  
6 lack of a local hard disk drive in the computer.

1 20. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is plugged into a motherboard holding  
2 the CPU.

1 21. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is connected by a connecting cable  
2 to a motherboard holding the CPU.

1 22. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter translates disk I/O requests into  
2 network I/O requests.

23. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is also a computer network adapter.

24. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is not a computer network adapter.

1 25. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter includes a sequence of bytes  
2 identifying the adapter to the CPU as a secondary boot device.

1 26. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter causes the operating system to be  
2 loaded from a network storage to a volatile memory in the computer.

1 27. The computer of Claim 19, wherein the adapter is housed within the computer.